

### **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

The description and claims are amended to correct typing errors, remove multiple dependencies and place them in more traditional format, as explained below.

The text of the application as filed included several multiple dependent claims, many of which were improper. These claims have been reviewed and a new set of claims corresponding generally to the original claim set are presented above. The substance of claims 20, 41, 52, 53 and 68-70 is not re-presented this action being taken without disclaimer or prejudice as applicants will retain the opportunity of filing a divisional application to cover the subject matter claimed by these claims.

The amendments to the formulas (a'), (b'), (II'b), (III'b) and (a'') at pages 28, 33, 34 and 35 of the specification, as well as in claims 107 (original claim 38) and 116 (original claim 48) correct clerical errors due to an inadvertency in drafting these formulae. By the above amendment, the positions of the substituents OR, OR' and OR'' of these formulas is now in accordance with those of the corresponding formulas in which the disaccharide only is shown, i.e. of formulas (II), (II'), (II'a), (III), (III') and (III'a).

Accordingly, «R''» has been replaced by «R» at pages 28, 33 and 35 of the specification. In any case, the meaning of the substituent does not change because all of R, R' and R'' represent hydrogen or SO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>.

The scope of claim 110 (original claim 42) has been limited to epiK5-amine-O-oversulfate-derivatives having a mean molecular weight from about 3,500 to about 40,000 and a degree of sulfation of from 3.55 to 4, which represent a particularly advantageous embodiment of the invention. This embodiment is supported by the description (see page 7, lines 11-19). Literature does not disclose epiK5-amine-O-oversulfate-derivatives having a so high degree of sulfation, as set forth in the Summary of the Invention, at page 8 of the specification.

A new independent claim (claim 134) has been added directed to new and useful LMW-epiK5-amine-O-oversulfates obtained by oversulfation of the LMW-epiK5-N-sulfate starting materials of formula I', bearing a 2,5-anhydromannitol unit having the structure (a), in their turn prepared by depolymerization of an epiK5-N-sulfate and subsequent reduction. Consequently, claims 115 and 116 (original claims 47 and 48) have been rendered depending on new claim 134.

This new claim and the dependence of claims 115 and 116 (47 and 48) thereon are supported by the description, from page 26, last three lines, to page 28, line 17.

The expression "having a mean molecular weight of between approximately 1,500 and approximately 25,000", which is the subject matter of claim 5, has been deleted from new claim 134. This amendment is supported by page 11, line 14 of the specification.

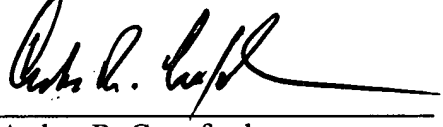
Other amendments involve the elimination of multiple dependencies of the claims and of clerical printing or language errors, as well as the replacement of the European-type wording "characterized by that" by "wherein" according to the USPTO practice.

Please examine the above claims taking into account the results of the International Search Report.

Respectfully submitted,

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